



1997 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 98

January 29, 1998 - Introduced by Representatives TURNER, MUSSER, L. YOUNG, TRAVIS, BOCK, BRANDEMUEHL, COGGS, CULLEN, DOBYNS, DUFF, FREESE, GOETSCH, GREEN, GRONEMUS, HAHN, HASENOHRL, HUTCHISON, JENSEN, JOHNSRUD, KEDZIE, KREUSER, KUNICKI, LADWIG, F. LASEE, J. LEHMAN, LORGE, MORRIS-TATUM, NOTESTEIN, OWENS, PLOUFF, PORTER, RILEY, ROBSON, RYBA, URBAN, WALKER, WILLIAMS, R. YOUNG and ZIEGELBAUER, cosponsored by Senators MOEN, ZIEN, WEEDEN, PLACHE, BURKE, MOORE and FITZGERALD. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** designating Buffalo Soldier Day.

2 Whereas, the month of February is designated as Black History Month across
3 the United States, a month to honor the accomplishments of our nation's
4 African-American ancestors; and

5 Whereas, our country's Black "Buffalo Soldiers" and those who have followed
6 in their legacy have served in, and fought heroically in, the U.S. Armed Forces in
7 every major conflict but have largely escaped public acknowledgment and
8 recognition; and

9 Whereas, legend provides that the first Buffalo Soldiers were so named by
10 Native Americans, due to their fierce fighting spirit reminiscent of the revered Great
11 Buffalo; and

12 Whereas, in 1866 the U.S. Congress created 6 Black regiments: the 9th and
13 10th U.S. Cavalry and the 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st U.S. Infantry, who were the first
14 Buffalo Soldiers. In 1869 the 4 infantry units were reduced to 2: the 24th and 25th.
15 These units were entrusted with the protection of the Western settlements and

1 railroad workers, charged with the building of roads and telegraphs, and made
2 responsible for discovering and mapping huge plots of unexplored territory in the
3 Southwestern United States, earning 24 Medals of Honor during their tenure; and

4 Whereas, nearly 200,000 Black Americans served in the Union Army during
5 the Civil War, 33,000 of them dying on Civil War battlefields; and

6 Whereas, nearly 400,000 Black Americans served in World War I, and many of
7 them compiled an enviable record of courage, valor and bravery in the first all-Black
8 unit, the 92nd Division, and the regiments of the 92nd — the 369th, 370th, 371st and
9 372nd regiments — these Black American soldiers were awarded over 550 Croix de
10 Guerres, France’s highest award for bravery, but not a single Congressional Medal
11 of Honor by this country, until President Bush awarded the only one to Corporal
12 Freddie Stowers of the 371st Infantry on April 24, 1991, posthumously; and

13 Whereas, over 1,000,000 Blacks served during World War II, including those
14 who served in the Red Ball Express Truck Company, the 555th Parachute Infantry
15 Company and the 92nd Infantry Division, remaining largely segregated and
16 unheralded until 7 Medals of Honor were awarded by President Clinton in 1997, 6
17 of them posthumously, 52 years after World War II; and

18 Whereas, during World War II these soldiers bore the added burden of growing
19 up in the Depression era, along with the degradation of fighting as segregated troops
20 on foreign soil, while defending their nation’s cause and their personal honor and
21 integrity as men; now, therefore, be it

22 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
23 Wisconsin legislature designate February 20, 1998, as “Buffalo Soldier Day” to
24 commemorate the distinguished deeds performed by all African-American soldiers
25 who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces with devotion and distinction, and in

1 many instances given their lives in the service of their country, and hold them up for
2 all generations to revere as great patriots of the highest order, worthy of emulation
3 by all.

4 (END)